



St Patrick's Parish

Gympie and Surrounds

14 Church Street, GYMPIE

Ph: 07 5490 6880

Email: gympie@bne.catholic.net.au

4th Sunday of Lent

Year A

15 March 2026

Reflection by Project Compassion

There are many occasions when we ask the question why and can't find the answer for which we are looking. Why did we miss out on a job? Why did someone we love get cancer? Why can't we find a place to live that we can afford? Why do some days seem so difficult?

It is good to sit with our confusion and even grief. It is good to share it with the Lord who loves us so tenderly. But sometimes we have to step aside from the question why did this happen? It may be better to start with where can I go from here? What small steps will enable me to face the future in a positive spirit?

Today's readings touch upon these issues. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a person who was born blind. The bystanders want to know why this happened. They think it must be because either he or his parents did something wrong. They are looking backwards. Jesus prefers to look forwards. He says, 'he was born blind so that the works of God may be displayed in him.' In other words, his blindness presents opportunities for growth, not a pretext for blame. The letter to the Ephesians similarly reminds us that we are on a journey from darkness to light. The whole of Lent could be described in those words. The letter says, 'try to discover what the Lord wants of you.' It asks us in terms of possibilities! The same thing happens when Samuel anoints David. It doesn't matter that David is a young shepherd. He has a big future, as anyone familiar with the Bible well knows.

This week, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, draws us into the story of Manaini, a 44-year-old mother and subsistence farmer in remote northern Fiji. She has transformed her family's life through food processing and organic farming, thanks to a Caritas-supported project. Once reliant on more store-bought food and prone to food waste, she now produces homemade flours, dried foods, and sells produce and baked goods from local crops. Her passion for learning has made her a key player in her community, working with others to embrace more sustainable, empowering ways of living. Thanks to the generosity of the Australian Catholic community, hundreds of thousands of people such as Manaini are finding an answer to the question, 'where can we go from here.'

UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

St Patrick's Mass Times this week

Monday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 9:00am
Thursday: 7:00am
Friday: 5:30pm
Reconciliation from 4:45pm or by appointment
Sunday: 9:00am (Livestreamed)
5:30pm

Country Church Mass Times 22/03/2026

Saturday
St John Vianney – Tin Can Bay 5:00pm
Sunday
St Peter the Fisherman – Rainbow Beach 6:30am
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Sunday
St Therese Church – Gunalda 7:00am

Parish Contact Information

Parish Priest

Fr Rafal Rucinski
0410 887 476

Parish Secretary

Mrs Brianna Bridges

Parish Associate

Mr Tom Bushell

Safeguarding Officer

Mr Ian Laherty
Lsr.gympie@bne.catholic.net.au
0460 573 349

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30am to 1:00pm

Parish Website

Stpatsgympie.net.au

Facebook

St Patrick's Catholic Parish
Gympie

Finance Council

Ken Garner

Community Council

Maureen Rush

St Vincent de Paul

Family Assistance

Ph: 5481 1525

Email:

sp4570@svdpqld.org.au

St Patrick's College

Principal: Mr Mark Newton

Phone: 5482 0600

Website:

www.spcgympie.qld.edu.au

St Patrick's Primary

Principal: Mrs Petrea Hass

Phone: 5489 3200

Website:

www.stpatrickspsgympie.qld.edu.au

Support the Gympie Parish

Thank you for your continued financial support of the Parish it is greatly appreciated and much needed. If you would like to support the Parish financially please see the ways below:

Direct Debit: Account Name: St Patrick's Parish
BSB: 064-786 Account Number: 1000 17636
Reference: Name/Collections

EFTPOS: We have an EFTPOS machine at the back of the church just tap and go

Envelopes: If you wish to use envelopes, please contact the parish office to arrange a box and then place on the collection plate on either collection.

Cash: If you prefer to use cash please place on the collections plate.

Containers for Change: Simply return your containers to any of the containers for change refund points and quote our number C11306796. Donations collected through this method will be used for Youth Group Activities.

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass beginning

Liturgy Roster
5th Sunday in Lent -
22 March 2026
9:00am Morning Mass

Welcomer: P Daunt

Reader 1: P Callaghan

Reader 2: M Rush

POF: D Griffin

Altar Servers: Jakson, Anna, Braden

Communion Ministers:

Host: S Kelly, E Saunders, L Newey

Chalice: I Laherty, D Liedel, A Towner, M Green

PowerPoint: A Jomy

Piety Store: N Carmichael

Morning Tea: Hilltop Ramblers

5:30pm Evening Mass

Welcomer: E Shields

Reader 1: S Hayes

Reader 2: T Hallam

POF: I Rodrigues

Communion Minister:

E Shields, B Doak, C Johnston

PowerPoint: N Gruar

5th Sunday in Lent Readings

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Men's Afternoon

Men's Afternoon has a new time of 1:00pm until 2:30pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome to come along for a chat, a beer, a coffee and a few games. Next meeting will be

Thursday 26th March 2026.

Hearing Loop in St Pats

For anyone using hearing aids please turn your hearing loop to T. The hearing loop is situated in the middle of the church.

Safeguarding

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding>
Information can be provided at STOpline anonymously.

Ph: 1300 304 550

email: AOB@stoline.com.au

Online: bncatholic.stoplinereport.com

A Vocation View

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Seeing physically dead people return to life is not a common event. But Christians, serious about their vocation, are eager to help the "down and out" find new meaning in Christ and live a full life.



Flocknote

Want to receive our newsletters online or stay up to date with information from the Parish? Sign up to our Flocknote. By signing up and filling in your details you are also updating the Parish Office with your current phone numbers and addresses.



Facebook

You can also stay up to date with any notices from the parish by visiting and liking our Facebook page. **St Patrick's catholic Parish Gympie**

Office Closed

The Parish office will close early on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 12:00pm. We will reopen on Wednesday at 8:30am.

[The Missal Phone App](#)

To help reduce waste of paper and printing costs we are going to be removing the readings from the back of the newsletters. If you would like to continue reading you can purchase an app on your phone **The Missal** for \$5.00 through your app store, alternatively you can bring your copy of the missal or purchase one through the piety store.

[Holy Week Roster](#)

There is a roster in the front of the Church if you can assist over the Holy Week Masses please write your name down.

[Candle Prayer Vigil](#)

Cherish Life will be holding a Candle Prayer Vigil for "International Day of the Unborn Child" on **Wednesday 25th March** at 6:30pm at the Band Rotunda, Memorial Park, River Road. Everyone is welcome to join in the prayer.

[Gympie Winter Shelter](#)

Gympie Winter Shelter are looking for volunteers to assist with the program for the homeless. You are invited to attend the Gympie Wesleyan Church on **Monday 16th March** at 6:30pm – 8:00pm to learn on ways you can help. If you cannot make the evening and would like to know further information please contact Kate at gympiewintershelter@gmail.com

[First Rite of Reconciliation](#)

If your child is 11 years old or older or in Year 5 and has received the sacraments for Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion and would like to receive the Sacrament of First Rite of Reconciliation our program will start **Sunday 15th March** with the First meeting at 10:30am in the St Patrick's Church.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 14-15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code. **Or online at:** www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



[What's Happening](#)

Date	Event
15 th March	BBQ after Morning Mass St Patrick's Church
17 th March	St Patrick's Solemnity
25 th March	Candle Prayer Vigil "International Day of the Unborn Child"
25 th March	Annunciation of the Lord Mass 5:30pm St Patricks
26 th March	Annual Chrism Mass @ St Stephens Cathedral
26 th March	Men's Afternoon
29 th March	Palm Sunday

[Stations of the Cross](#)

During Lent we will be holding Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's Church every Friday evening after the 5:30pm Mass. St John Vianney will be holding Stations of the cross on Friday's at 10:00am.

[Annunciation of the Lord](#)

We will be holding Mass on **Wednesday 25th March 2026** at 5:30pm for the Annunciation of the Lord.

[St Patrick's Day](#)

This year St Patrick's Day falls on Tuesday 17th March. We will be holding our usual Mass on Tuesday at 9:00am followed by adoration. We will be celebration St Patrick's day with a BBQ after Sunday morning Mass on **15th March**. We would love for you to wear Green and celebrate the solemnity.

[Lenten Reflection Group](#)

Lenten Reflection Group will be meeting in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday's during Lent** at 11:00am.

Holy Week Schedule

2nd April - **Thursday of the Lords Supper** – St Patrick's 7:00pm followed by adoration in Parish Centre until 9:00pm

3rd April – **Stations of the Cross** – Sacred Heart Kandanga 9:30am

- St Patrick's Gympie 10:00am

- St John Vianney Tin Can Bay 10:00am

- St Therese Gunalda 10:00am

- St Peter the Fisherman Rainbow Beach 10:00am

3rd April – **Friday of the Passion of the Lord** – St Patrick's Gympie 3:00pm

- St John Vianney Tin Can Bay 3:00pm

4th April – **Holy Saturday – The Easter Vigil** – St Patrick's Gympie 7:00pm

5th April – **Sunday of the Resurrection** – St Peter the Fisherman Rainbow Beach 6:30am

- St Patrick's Gympie 9:00am

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel
In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. R.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. R.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. R.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. R.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:
Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 9:1-41

Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal © 2010,
International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) All rights reserved.